

ABSTRACT

The present invention provides a stable 2-(2-pyridylmethyl) sulfinyl-1*H*-benzimidazole (lansoprazole) comprising either greater than 500 ppm and not more than about 3,000 ppm water or greater than 200 ppm and not more than about 5,000 ppm
5 alcohol, or both. The present invention provides a method of preparing a stable lansoprazole as well as a pharmaceutical composition containing same. The present invention further provides a method of purifying lansoprazole that is substantially free of sulfone and sulfide derivatives.

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